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The Broken Codes



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"There have been times I couldn't convince one intelligent creature not to harm another, and had to slay them. I regret each, as I regret each time I fail to dissuade a man from some lethal foolishness, but I know this is sometimes necessary. Formulae like these, though... they can only encourage the hunting of those who do nothing to deserve it."

—Excerpted from Jorstadt's introduction to *The Broken Codes*.

The Broken Codes was a journal compiled by the [witcher Jorstadt the Owl](#) between 1265 and 1370, across most of his active time wandering the world on [The Path](#). Its subtitle, **Knowledge Neither To Be Lost Nor Remembered**, was originally only a note scribbled on the binding's cover as a personal reminder, later embossed and made official by scribes of the School of the Owl. Within this tome was stored all the knowledge pertinent to the witcher's trade which Jorstadt purposely excluded from his field journals, upon which he would base the teachings of his School. This information included subjects he considered forbidden, such as decoctions derived from the bodies of sentient monsters including [dopplers](#), [dragons](#), and [succubi](#).

After his first encounter with such knowledge, which a mage had discovered by butchering a monster Jorstadt considered harmless and befriended besides, Jorstadt took it upon himself to secure and curate examples of research he considered unethical to prevent others from building upon it. While methods of fighting sentient beasts he still recorded elsewhere, knowing individuals from any species were capable of doing harm to defend against, he specifically took issue with research that might encourage active hunting of such species for personal benefit. After founding the School of the Owl, the tome came to rest in the school's fledgling library and was kept under lock and key by the Grandmaster himself, the first tome in what would become an entire restricted section. Starting from only a handful of pages, the leather-bound tome had grown considerably thick by the time it was added to the collection. Over its leather bindings were robust locks, the key to which was hidden in the back of Jorstadt's own Griffin School [medallion](#).

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